<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier version and listings.

1. (currently amended): A server capable of communicating with a device, comprising:

a first ~~management means for managing~~ <u>storage unit adapted to store</u> information representing an ability of ~~said~~ <u>the</u> device;

a second ~~management means for managing~~ <u>storage unit adapted to store</u> information representing an ability of a device driver for the device;

a retrieval condition reception ~~means for receiving~~ <u>unit adapted to receive</u> a retrieval condition for selecting the device;

~~retrieval means for retrieving the device based on the information managed~~ ~~by said first management means, the information managed by said second management~~ ~~means and the retrieval condition received by said retrieval condition reception means; and~~

~~output means for outputting a retrieval result obtained by said retrieval~~ ~~means~~

<u>a comparing unit adapted to compare the retrieval condition received by said</u> <u>retrieval condition reception unit with combined information, the combined information</u> <u>being a combination of the information stored by said first storage unit and the information</u> <u>stored by said second storage unit; and</u>

<u>an output unit adapted to output a comparing result obtained by said</u> <u>comparing unit</u>.

- 2 -

2.      (currently amended):  A server according to claim 1, further comprising:

a first reception ~~means for receiving~~ <u>unit adapted to receive</u> the information representing the ability of the device; and

a second reception ~~means for receiving~~ <u>unit adapted to receive</u> the information representing the ability of the device driver for the device.


3.      (currently amended):  A server according to claim 1, further comprising <u>a</u> generation ~~means for generating~~ <u>unit adapted to generate the combined</u> information by ~~coupling~~ <u>combining</u> the information ~~managed~~ <u>stored</u> by said first ~~management means~~ <u>storage unit</u> and the information ~~managed~~ <u>stored</u> by said second ~~management means~~ <u>storage unit</u> together.


4.      (currently amended):  A server according to claim 3, further comprising ~~registration means for registering~~ <u>a third storage unit adapted to store</u> the <u>combined</u> information generated by said generation ~~means to a storage~~ unit.


5.      (currently amended):  A server according to claim 4, ~~further comprising comparison means for comparing~~ <u>wherein said comparing unit compares</u> the <u>combined</u> information ~~registered~~ <u>stored</u> by said ~~registration means~~ <u>third storage unit</u> with the retrieval condition.


6.      (currently amended):  A server according to claim 1, wherein the retrieval condition includes plural conditions,

wherein said ~~retrieval means~~ comparing unit compares the information

~~managed~~ stored by said first ~~management means,~~ storage unit and the information ~~managed~~

stored by said second ~~management means and~~ storage unit with each condition included in

the retrieval condition ~~with others~~, and

wherein said output [[means]] unit outputs an adaptivity based on the

number of adapted conditions among the plural conditions included in the retrieval

condition.


7.      (previously presented):  A server according to claim 1, wherein the

information representing the ability of the device is information concerning any one of

duplex print, N-up print, jobcopy, pagecopy, OHP insertion print, resolution, the number of

print pages, a paper size, and a status of the device.


8.      (currently amended):  A server according to claim 1, wherein the

~~retrieval~~ comparing by said ~~retrieval means~~ comparing unit is performed with respect to

plural devices.


9. - 20. (cancelled.)


21.     (currently amended):  An information processing method which is

executed by a server capable of communicating with a device, comprising the steps of:

managing storing first information representing an ability of the device;

managing storing second information representing ability of a device driver

for the device;

receiving a retrieval condition for selecting the device;

~~retrieving the device based on the first and second information and the received retrieval condition; and~~

~~outputting a retrieval result of said retrieving step~~

comparing the retrieval condition received in said retrieving step with combined information, the combined information being a combination of the first information and the second information; and

outputting a comparing result obtained in said comparing step.


22.    (currently amended):  A method according to claim 21, further comprising the steps of:

receiving the first information representing the ability of the device; and

receiving the second information representing the ability of the device driver for the device.


23.    (currently amended):  A method according to claim 21, further comprising the step of generating the combined information by ~~coupling~~ combining the first and the second information together.


24.    (currently amended):  A method according to claim 23, further comprising the step of storing ~~registering~~ the combined information generated in said generating step in a storage unit.

25.    (currently amended):  A method according to claim 24, ~~further~~

~~comprising~~ wherein said comparing step includes comparing the combined information

~~registered in said registering step~~ with the retrieval condition.


26.    (currently amended):  A method according to claim 21, wherein the

retrieval condition includes plural conditions,

wherein, in said comparing ~~step of retrieving~~, the first information[[,]] and

the second information ~~and~~ are compared with each condition included in the retrieval

condition ~~are compared with others~~, and

wherein [[in]] said outputting step includes outputting an adaptivity based

on the number of adapted conditions among the plural conditions included in the retrieval

condition.


27.    (currently amended):  A method according to claim 21, wherein the

first information representing the ability of the device is information concerning any one of

duplex print, N-up print, jobcopy, pagecopy, OHP insertion print, resolution, the number of

print pages, a paper size, and a status of the device.


28.    (currently amended):  A method according to claim 21, wherein the

~~retrieval by~~ comparing in said ~~retrieval~~ comparing step is performed with respect to plural

devices.


29. - 40. (canceled)

41.     (currently amended):  An information processing program, stored in a computer-readable storage medium, and which is executed by a server capable of communicating with a device, wherein said program ~~allows~~ causes a computer to execute:

a first ~~managing~~ storing step of ~~managing~~ storing first information representing an ability of ~~said~~ the device;

a second ~~managing~~ storing step of ~~managing~~ storing second information representing an ability of a device driver for the device;

a receiving step of receiving a retrieval condition for selecting the device;

~~a retrieving step of retrieving the device based on the first and second information and the received retrieval condition; and~~

~~an outputting step of outputting a retrieval result of said retrieving step~~

a comparing step of comparing the retrieval condition received in said retrieving step with combined information, the combined information being a combination of the first information and the second information; and

an outputting step of outputting a comparing result obtained in said comparing step.


42.     (currently amended):  A program according to claim 41, wherein said program ~~allows~~ causes the computer to execute:

receiving the first information representing the ability of the device; and

receiving the second information representing the ability of the device driver for the device.

43.     (currently amended):  A program according to claim 41, wherein said program ~~allows~~ <u>causes</u> the computer to execute a step of generating <u>the combined</u> information by ~~coupling~~ <u>combining</u> the first information and the second information together.


44.     (currently amended):  A program according to claim 43, further comprising ~~registering~~ <u>storing</u> the <u>combined</u> information generated in said generating step in a storage unit.


45.     (currently amended):  A program according to claim 44, ~~further~~ ~~comprising~~ <u>wherein said comparing step includes</u> comparing the <u>combined</u> information ~~registered in said registering step~~ with the retrieval condition.


46.     (currently amended):  A program according to claim 41, wherein the retrieval condition includes plural conditions,

        wherein said retrieving step includes comparing the first information[[,]] <u>and</u> the second information ~~and~~ <u>with</u> each condition included in the retrieval condition ~~with~~ ~~others~~, and

        wherein said outputting step includes outputting an adaptivity based on the number of adapted conditions among the plural conditions included in the retrieval condition.


47.     (currently amended):  A program according to claim 41, wherein the <u>first</u> information representing the ability of the device is information concerning any one of

duplex print, N-up print, jobcopy, pagecopy, OHP insertion print, resolution, the number of print pages, a paper size, and a status of the device.

48. (currently amended): A program according to claim 41, wherein the ~~retrieval by~~ comparing in said ~~retrieval~~ comparing step is performed with respect to plural devices.

49. -73. (canceled).

74. (currently amended): A server according to claim 1, wherein said output [[means]] unit outputs the ~~retrieval~~ comparing result in a form for discriminating the function executable by the device driver, as the result of the ~~retrieval~~ comparing by said ~~retrieval means~~ comparing unit.

75. (canceled).

76. (currently amended): A method according to claim 21, wherein said retrieving step includes retrieving the device for which at least one of the ability of ~~said~~ the device and the ability of the device driver satisfies the retrieval condition.

77. (currently amended): A method according to claim 21, wherein said outputting step includes outputting the ~~retrieval~~ comparing result in a form for discriminating the function executable by the device driver, as the result of the ~~retrieval~~ comparing in said ~~retrieval~~ comparing step.

78.    (currently amended):  A program according to claim 41, wherein said retrieving step includes retrieving the device for which at least one of the ability of ~~said~~ the device and the ability of the device driver satisfies the retrieval condition.

79.    (currently amended):  A program according to claim 41, wherein said outputting step includes outputting the ~~retrieval~~ comparing result in a form for discriminating the function executable by the device driver, as the result of the ~~retrieval~~ comparing in said ~~retrieval~~ comparing step.